

ALASKA TRAUMA REGISTRY CALENDAR

AUGUST 2000

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SECTION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Child Passenger Safety

The National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has published safety tips to help guide the public through the maze of concerns related to passenger safety for infants and children. There were 21 Alaskan children under age 9 admitted to a hospital in 1998 as a result of a traffic crash.. Trauma registry data bear out many of these concerns.

- ♦ Infants should ride in rear facing restraints, preferably in the back seat, until about age 1 and at least 20-22 lbs. *One infant less than one year of age was injured while restrained in a seat belt in the front seat of the car. He suffered a brain injury.*
- ♦ Your child should stay in a car safety seat with a full harness until the seat is outgrown, usually at about 40 pounds. Most 40-pound children are not big enough to fit lap and shoulder belts properly. So when a child's shoulders are above the top set of strap slots, it is time for a booster seat. *The Alaska Trauma Registry currently does not collect information about the use of booster seats.*
- ♦ The back seat usually is safer than the front, because head-on crashes are the most common kind. *Of the 21 injured children, four (ages 2 – 6) were*

known to have been riding in the front seat..

- ♦ Children who have outgrown safety seats are better protected by lap/shoulder belts than by lap belts alone. *Two of the injured children (ages 7 and 8) were restrained by lap belts only. One suffered a head injury and the other abdominal injuries.*
- ♦ If no shoulder belt is available, it's much safer for anyone (except small babies who can't sit up) to use just a lap belt than to ride loose. Keep the lap belt low and snug across the thighs. *Five children (ages 2-8) suffered serious injury in a car crash while unsecured. One two-year-old opened the door, fell out, and was run over. An eight-year-old was ejected from the vehicle during a roll-over.*

Instructions on how to properly secure a child safety seat can be found at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/newtips/tip6.html>. There will be safety seat training at this year's EMS Symposium on Thursday, November 9th, 1:30-5:00 PM.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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